



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK Advisory



TO: Primary care providers, infectious disease, infection control, ERs, and local health departments in Cedar, Wayne, Dixon, Thurston, and Dakota Counties.

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RE: **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza**

DATE: May 15, 2015

Earlier this week, State and Federal agriculture officials notified us of confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in a poultry operation in Dixon County. This virus first appeared in poultry operations in other states earlier this year. To date, no human infections with this virus have been reported in the United States.

State health officials are working closely with Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department to monitor this situation for any human health consequences. At this point the human health risk appears to be small, and confined to workers involved in the care and depopulation of affected flocks. We have established a worker safety and monitoring program to minimize the risk of worker infection and to assess for infectious diseases in the involved workforce.

The avian influenza virus causing this outbreak is an influenza A H5N2 virus. Although this virus is causing infection and high mortality rates in avian populations, it appears to lack the properties required for human clinical infection and person-to-person spread. We will notify the medical community if a human health issue develops.

Clinicians who have questions or who identify patients who appear to have infection related to work with the affected poultry operations should report their concerns to a state or local public health official. The Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department can be reached at 402-375-2200 and DHHS' Division of Public Health can be reached at 402-471-2937.

Resources:

NEDHHS: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/avianflu>

Department of Agriculture: <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/animal/avian/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/index.htm>